

Testimony of Theresa Velendzas Before the Connecticut  
General Assembly of Environment Committee  
February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Environment Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting SB 237 and Act Prohibiting the Storage or Disposal of Fracking Waste in Connecticut and SB 5308 An Act Concerning The Regulation of Fracking Waste.

I am a mother and community advocate for healthy living and a clean environment. We are facing an unprecedented exposure to environmental toxins at a time when the energy debate is also very prevalent. We cannot sacrifice our health and community while this debate continues. We are fortunate that CT does not have the option to be involved in the fracking activity that has posed a demonstrable threat to the health and well being of several communities as expert testimony will show. We are lucky merely by chance, because our geography has not been deemed suitable. To allow waste disposal in our state would be negligent at best. By prohibiting the disposal of waste we:

1. protect our environment
2. take proactive measures to protect our public health
3. weigh in to this debate by demonstrating that we need to invest in safe energy sources and responsible waste disposal because we just will NOT risk our health and beautiful state.

And given what our mighty State of Connecticut has accomplished over the years, including but not limited to our nation's very first GMO labeling bill I am very hopeful that we can and will refuse to allow special interests to trump those of residents. Supporting this bill to prohibit the disposal of toxic waste in Connecticut is sound policy that serves the best interests of our community.

I would like to commend and thank all the cosponsors of these bills as well as your committee for taking the time to review and act on this very serious issue that threatens to take away our quality of life and destroy our community. I appreciate and applaud your efforts and want you to know that I will stand behind a decision to identify and prohibit fracking waste in Connecticut.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for questions or for community support .

Respectfully,

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